

PEARSON, J.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

MERLE GRIFF, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	CASE NO. 5:24CV0687
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
v.	)	JUDGE BENITA Y. PEARSON
	)	
INNOVATIVE MEDTECH, INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	<b><u>MEMORANDUM OF OPINION</u></b>
Defendants.	)	<b><u>AND ORDER</u></b>

On April 17, 2024, Plaintiffs Merle Griff, Adam Griff, and Brian Froelich filed the above-entitled action against Defendants Innovative MedTech, Inc. and Veterans Services, LLC d/b/a Veterans USA LLC based on diversity jurisdiction. Defendant Veterans Services, LLC (“Veterans Services”) is alleged to be a limited liability company. *See* Complaint ([ECF No. 1](#)) at PageID #: 2, ¶ 5.

Veterans Services filed a Jurisdictional Statement ([ECF No. 11](#)) identifying the citizenship of all of its members in response to a Show Cause Order ([ECF No. 9](#)). For the reasons set forth below, the case at bar is dismissed.

Under [28 U.S.C. § 1332\(a\)](#), a court has subject matter jurisdiction over a case raising state law claims only if there is complete diversity of citizenship and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. The complete diversity rule requires that every plaintiff be of diverse citizenship from every defendant. [\*Strawbridge v. Curtiss\*, 7 U.S. \(3 Cranch\) 267 \(1806\)](#).

(5:24CV0687)

“The current members of [Veterans] Services are EF Trust LLC and Edward Dovner. EF Trust LLC is a Delaware limited liability company and its sole member is a California resident. Edward Dovner is a resident of Florida.” [ECF No. 11](#).

“Plaintiff Merle Griff is a citizen of the State of Florida.” [ECF No. 1](#) at PageID #: 1, ¶ 1.

Without regard to whether Plaintiffs may have stated otherwise valid claims for relief, it is clear from the Jurisdictional Statement ([ECF No. 11](#)) that there is not complete diversity of citizenship of the parties. The inclusion of Edward Dovner as a member of Veterans Services is a violation of the complete diversity rule since Mr. Dovner is a co-citizen of Dr. Griff. The Court therefore lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this matter. *See Caudill v. North America Media Corp.*, 200 F.3d 914, 916 (6th Cir. 2000).

Because complete diversity is lacking, the within matter will be dismissed without prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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June 21, 2024  
Date

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*/s/ Benita Y. Pearson*  
Benita Y. Pearson  
United States District Judge